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administration taken proper preventive steps immediately after the disease appeared in epidemic form. But no additional staff was appointed or suitable measures were taken immediately after that. May I know why that was not done? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In addition to the usual staff, an additional staff of 1 Reserve Health Assistant and 7 Special Health Assistants and 2 Special Health Inspectors were employed in this taluk."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" When there was the attack of small-pox in Kurumbranad taluk especially in Badagara and its surroundings, the District Board President, the Member of the constituency concerned and other social workers joined together and did their utmost to give relief to the people and to bring the disease under control. But, at the same time, for want of staff and concrete help from the Government, they could not do much. The help which they were seeking from the Government was delayed. As a result, the disease could not be completely brought under control. So, when the local board authorities, the district boards and panchayat boards, request the Government in such circumstances for help, will the Government rush with help without making any delay so that the lives of the people may be saved? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Immediate steps are taken in all such cases."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" The question is not about the appointment of these officers. It is about the belated appointment of these officers. Will the Government see that in future such delays do not occur when epidemics break out? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I would like to know the basis for this complaint."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Section 53 of the Public Health Act says that on the outbreak or threatened outbreak of the epidemic, additional staff has to be appointed. Now, when there was outbreak of small-pox in this area, when was this additional staff appointed? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Additional staff was appointed immediately."

Assignment of land for building a school.

* 2029 *Q.*—SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received on 14th July 1952 from one Sri A. Gopalaswamy of Saram village, Tindivanam taluk, South Arcot district, regarding the assignment of 14½ cents of natham lands in that village in R.S. No. 202 for building an Aided Elementary school; and

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(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon so far?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) Yes. Sri A. Gopalaswamy has made an application to the Collector of South Arcot in the matter.

" (*b*) It is under the consideration of the Collector of South Arcot."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Though a delay of more than three years has occurred in this particular case, may I know why the Government are moving so very slowly in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It is not the Government that is moving slowly. On the other hand, it is the applicant that is moving slowly. He paid the certification fee of Rs. 2 only on the 10th June 1955. He has not paid the value of the land which will be another couple of rupees. As soon as he pays that, the matter will be put through."

Maintenance cost of metal and superior black-top roads.

* 2030 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the average cost of maintaining (i) a metal road and (ii) a superior black-top road per mile per year?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The information [a] is placed on the table of the House."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Is it a fact that from the amount allotted for black-topping of the surface of roads in the South Arcot district, a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been cut off? If so, may I request the Government to consider the condition of South Arcot sympathetically and sanction that sum? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be given notice of."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" I find from the statement placed on the table of the House that forming of roads with black-topped surface and asphaltic concrete surface is comparatively cheaper than forming of roads with metalled surface. May I know why the Government are still adhering to the formation of metalled surface roads in certain areas and why they have not given it up? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Only the cost of maintenance is compared here. The initial cost is different."

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 839 infra.